

1921

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Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

John Falter

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Digitized by the Internet Archive
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State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/artistsofabrahamflinc>

"So he read Blackstone on the grocery store counter"

---Sandberg

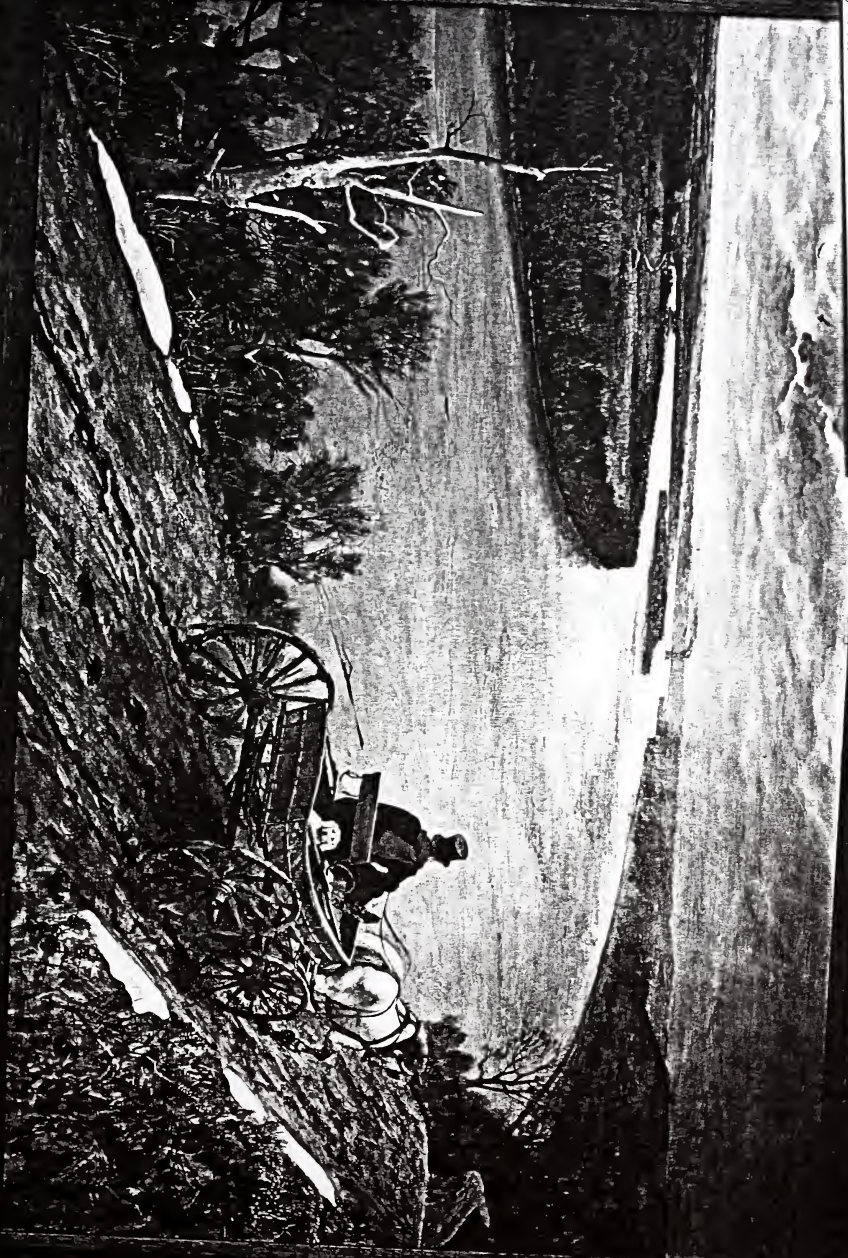
Painting by John Falter



"Campaigning amid the bluffs of the Big Muddy
His thoughts of men and history"

--Carl Sandberg

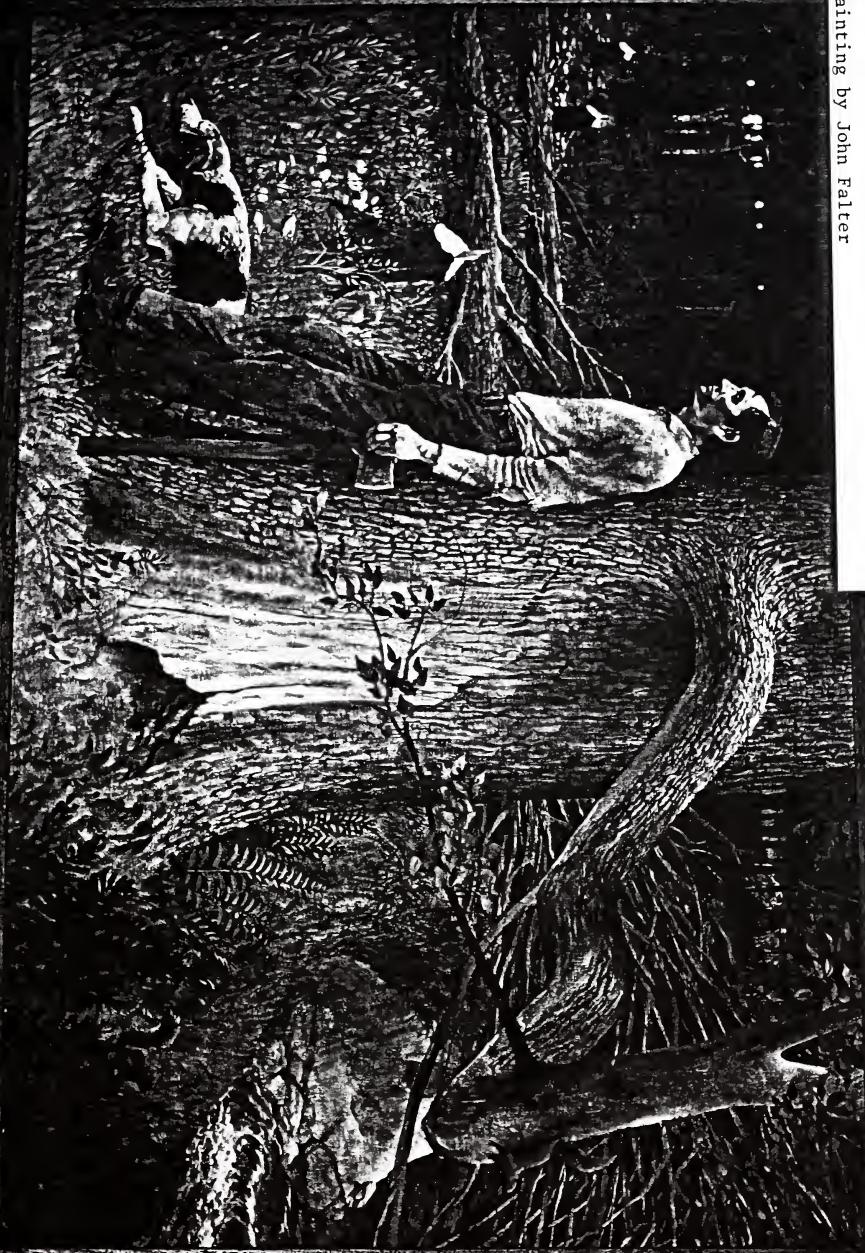
Painting by John Falter



Resting between spells of work, he knew silence."

---Carl Sandberg

Painting by John Falter

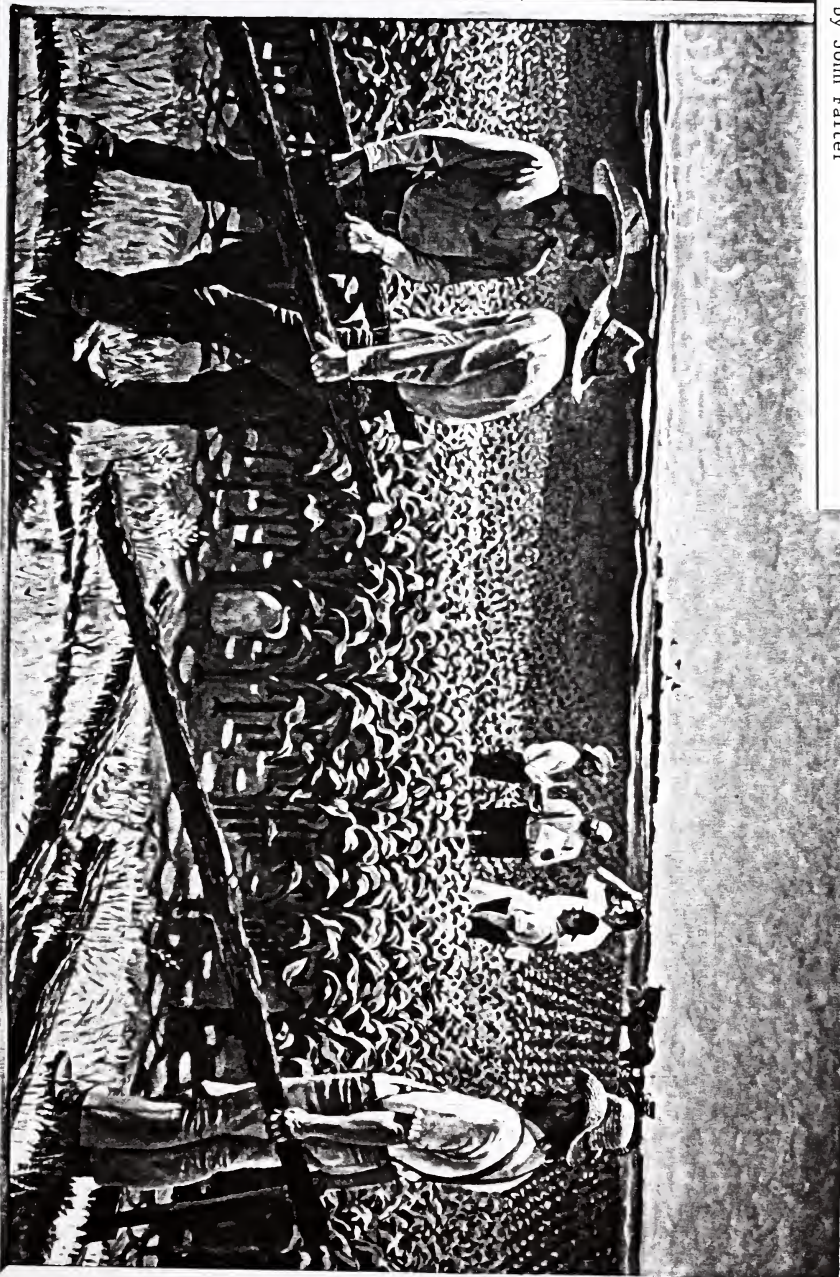


THE CARL SANDBERG COLLECTION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LIBRARY

"Lincoln remarked, 'It was a kind of shirt sleeve
court they were holding there in the cornfield'"

---Carl Sandberg

Painting by John Falter



RURAL AMERICA



Issue Date: August 6, 1974
First Day City: Chautauqua, New York
Designer: John Falter
Modeler: Frank J. Waslick
Engravers: Arthur W. Dintaman (Vignette)
Kenneth C. Wiram (Lettering)
Presses: Offset and Giori
Colors: Yellow, blue, green, red, black
Size: 1.44 x 0.84 inches
Stamps to Pane: 50
Plate Numbers: One
Selva: "Mail Early in the Day"
"Use ZIP Code" and Mr. ZIP

Chautauqua Movement Commemorative Stamp

This 10-cent stamp honors the Chautauqua movement in the United States. It will be issued at Chautauqua, New York, during the formal observance of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chautauqua Institution.

The stamp is the second in the U.S. Postal Service's Rural America series.

The Chautauqua Institution developed from a Sunday School Teachers Assembly established at Chautauqua Lake by two prominent Methodists, the Reverend John H. Vincent and Lewis Miller. Lectures, concerts, readings and social entertainments were added to the program and, by 1886, there were at least 50 similar organizations throughout the country.

Just after the turn of the century, commercial traveling companies using Chautauqua as a generic name began pitching tents and spending several days in towns and villages where lecturers, orators and performing artists otherwise seldom appeared. Copying many features of the official Chautauqua Institution, these companies contributed significantly to a nation not yet served by rapid communications, motion pictures and radios. With the coming of these, the traveling companies faded from the rural American scene.

The original Chautauqua Institution, however, still attracts thousands each year to its grounds and to its courses.

First day cancellation requests may be sent to "Chautauqua Movement Stamps, Postmaster, Chautauqua, NY 14722." Proper remittance must be enclosed and requests must be postmarked no later than August 6, 1974.



A stocklist of stamps available at face value may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Philatelic Sales Division, Washington, DC 20036.

THE PROTECTING HAND



WOODMEN ACCIDENT AND LIFE COMPANY • ESTABLISHED 1890 • A MUTUAL COMPANY • LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68501

25 January 1977

LINCOLN LIFE

Received to _____

RECD JAN 26 1977

Answered _____

Office of T. A. WATSON

Mr. Thomas A. Watson, Chairman
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
1301 South Harrison Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Tom:

Mr. Allan Husberg, owner of the Husberg Fine Arts Gallery at Sedona, Arizona, has brought to my attention that his Gallery will be having a 3 man show in the near future featuring some of the work of former Nebraska artist John Falter. It occurred to me that this might be of some interest to you since John has painted some pictures of Abraham Lincoln. One of them is illustrated in the enclosed brochure. The other brochure tells you something about John Falter who is not only a most gifted artist and illustrator but a thoroughly fine gentleman. Knowing that Lincoln National has a most extensive collection of Lincoln memorabilia and pictures of the gentleman who was perhaps our greatest President, it occurred to me that this material could be of interest to you. Conceivably you would like to add a Falter to your collection.

A number of years ago we commissioned John Falter to paint a typical Nebraska scene for our Board of Directors room. We were so pleased with the result that we have since acquired two other oils by Falter. Sometime when you are in Lincoln, I would enjoy the opportunity of showing them to you.

With warm good wishes,

E. J. Faulkner, President

EJF:bp

Encs.

husberg
FINE ARTS GALLERY



Sedona

Your Invitation
to our

3 MAN SHOW

DON CROWLEY

JOHN FALTER

JUAN DELL
sculptures

man show³

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

"DAY OF THE
DANCER"
OIL
BY DON CROWLEY





They have asked me to say a few words about my husband, Don Crowley. We met 25 years ago at Art Center College in Los Angeles. He studied there for five years. He did beautiful figure drawings and still life paintings.

Through the years, he has always been completely dedicated to his art work, with the ability to concentrate and the discipline to carry it through in its finest detail.

His work has included many and varied subjects; but the paintings of the western subjects which he does today are, I feel, the fulfillment of his self-expression.

B. J. Crowley

"MINOR
REPAIRS"

OIL
BY
DON CROWLEY





Juan Dell's career as an artist has made a complete change in the lives of our family. It has involved each one of us and has made the difference between a quiet life and one of excitement. The collectors and dealers that we have met as a result of her career are interesting and unusual people and they have an outlook on life that is far from the ordinary.

Juan Dell's bronzes are everlasting. She never starts one without doing the proper research and she never stops working on one until she has done her very best. With this kind of dedication and with her God-given talent I truly feel that she will become known as one of the great sculptors of our time.

Joe Wade



"FOLLOWING THE BISON"
BY JUAN DELL

"IMPOSTER"
BY JUAN DELL





"ST. JOSEPH,
MISSOURI,
WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 10, 1859"

OIL BY
JOHN FALTER

I feel privileged to share my husband's life and his work. As I have been deeply interested in art most of my life and majored in fine arts in college I have a vicarious thrill every time a new picture grows and develops on his canvas.

Beyond the paintings, my husband and I have an abiding interest in American history and all the American art forms, including architecture and classic jazz. Because we both come from pioneer families — mine from California and my husband's from Nebraska we are happily involved in authenticating the pictures John paints. We hope they will document hitherto unrecorded moments in history and the settling of the west.

Mary Elizabeth (Boo) Falter





"ROAD THROUGH THE WOODS"

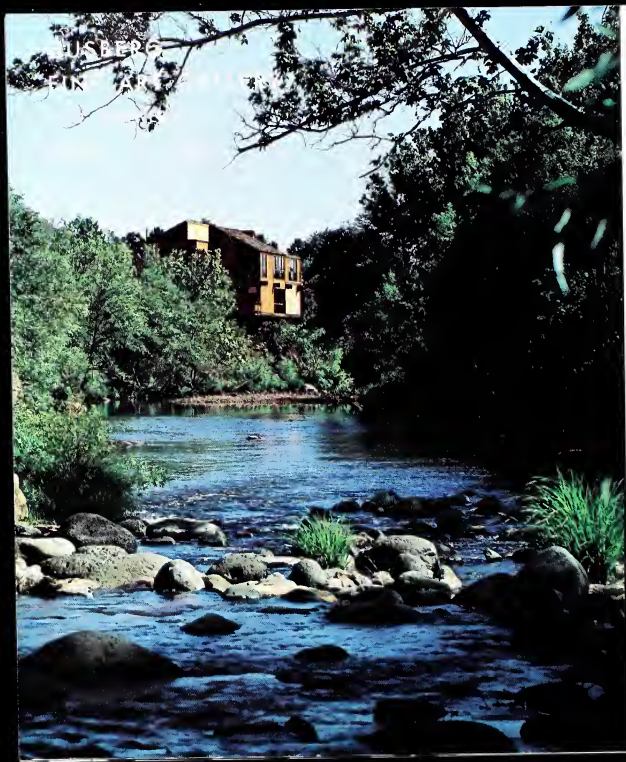
OIL, BY JOHN FALTER

Sheila and Allan Husberg are proud to present their three-man show featuring outstanding paintings and sculpture.

Our doors are open daily throughout the year from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and on Sundays from 12 P.M. to 5 P.M. We are happy to answer telephone or mail inquiries and can be reached by calling (602) 282-7489 or by writing to us at Drawer D, Sedona, Arizona 86336.

You are also invited to visit Husberg Scottsdale Wildlife Gallery at 7077 E. Main St., (entrance on Marshall) Scottsdale, Arizona, 85251. Phone 945-0110 for information.

"Where the west is a fine art."



FIRST CLASS MAIL

CORRECTED ADDRESS REQUESTED



John Falter

John Falter has been described by Norman Rockwell as "America's most gifted illustrator," a flattering accolade from a man who is himself revered for his expressions in illustration. There is no doubt that a background of illustrative paintings that include *Look* and *Newsweek* covers as well as 185 covers for *Saturday Evening Post*, among numerous other commissions, have given Mr. Falter a formidable headstart in the art of storytelling by painting.

Since his earliest days in Falls City, Nebraska, to the present time Mr. Falter has had an abiding interest in the history of our country. Perhaps this is the reason that he was commissioned in 1974 by the 3-M Company to paint a series of six Bicentennial paintings celebrating the beginnings of our great nation — paintings that capture and enlarge upon the spirit of the Company's TV series "From Sea to Shining Sea." These paintings have been reproduced by the 3-M Company in a limited edition, the bulk of which is intended for the employees of the Company. The balance of the edition, only 50 copies each of the prints, is available to the general public.

John Falter's working life has evolved around art. At 18 he entered the Kansas City Art Institute and at 20 he won a scholarship that enabled him to attend the Art Students League in New York. Then followed many very productive years of art illustration which allowed him to exercise his historical interests as well as his diverse enthusiasms in other art-related fields. He formerly played the clarinet and is now a dedicated jazz pianist. Having played in semi-professional bands during the sixties, he now indulges in jam sessions with his musician friends when they come to visit. This provides him, he claims, with those periods of rest and recreation so necessary after the 9 to 5 sessions of plying the brush in his art studio. A series of oil portraits of famous jazz performers such as Louis Armstrong, "Pee Wee" Russell, Art Tatum, Jack Teagarden and Ralph Sutton testify to his continued interest and love for music.

Painting itself, according to this gifted artist, must be "a love affair every time. If you aren't in love with what you are trying to put on that canvas, you better quit." John Falter is in love with painting and in love with America. This shows itself in his sweeping canvases of western and early America that are so sought after by museums and collectors of fine western art. Western art is a storytelling art, and where can better storytellers be found than among the list of our country's most talented illustrators.

In 1974, Mr. Falter was invited to show his work at the National Academy of Western Art at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

John Faller

"The Ceremony of the Snake"



husberg
FINE ARTS GALLERY

MAIN GALLERY
P. O. DRAWER D
SEDONA, ARIZONA 86336
282 - 7489

HUSBERG SCOTTSDALE
7077 E. MAIN STREET
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251
945 - 0110

Mark Neely

file

file pamphlets

*under
Archives*

file. Falter

February 8, 1977

Mr. E. J. Faulkner, President
Woodmen Accident and Life Company
1526 K Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

Dear Ed:

It was very thoughtful of you to think of me in connection with the Lincoln paintings. Unfortunately, we have just completed a program of purchasing artwork for our new addition to the Home Office and I am afraid have run through our budget. I will, however, pass along your kind information to Dr. Mark Neely, who is the Director of our Museum.

If I have a chance or if Mark is in Lincoln, we will certainly take you up on your offer.

Sincerely,



TAW:ew

February 1, 1917

Mr. J. J. Skinner, President
Lincoln Seed and Lumber Company
1226 N. Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

Dear Sir:

It was very thoughtful of you to think of me in connection with the Lincoln Seed and Lumber Company. Unfortunately, we have just completed a program of purchasing seed for our new addition to the Lincoln Seed and Lumber Company. I will, however, have run through our files along your line information to Mr. J. J. Skinner, who is the Director of our Seed.

If I have a chance on it, I will be in Lincoln, Nebraska, and will certainly take you up on your offer.

Sincerely,

LA:law

MAIN OFFICE
Hamburg, Iowa 51640
712-382-1212



BRANCH OFFICE
Riverton, Iowa 51650
712-387-2671

Dr. Mark Neely
Lincoln Library
Box 1110
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

9/11/85

Good morning:

Thanks for fielding my phone call last Wednesday.

Enclosed are 8"X12" glossies of the four John Falter oils of Abe Lincoln that we discussed. There is some reflection in the photos and the colors in the originals are more vibrant. Each work is approx. 32" X 48" and the overall size with the frame is approx. 39" X 55". The frames are distressed-finished barn siding neatly done. Three are on canvas and one is on board.

Also enclosed is a short history of Mr. Falter's professional life. As I mentioned he was a boyhood friend of my fathers in Falls City, Nebraska. Some of his Sat. Eve. Post covers have recently sold in the \$15M to \$20M range.

My father commissioned the four paintings at about the time 3-M Company in Minnesota did so for the Bicentennial. They are well researched and we have several letters from Mr. Falter concerning this. The 3-M Company used the Big-Muddy painting in a TV special in 1975 and Mr. Falter had some lithos made from the one of Lincoln in the General Store.

Also enclosed is a snap-shot of the Lincoln portriat by Col. Freeman Thorpe. This is one of two Lincoln portraits known by Thorpe who did many portraits in the 1860's. The other Thorpe painting of Lincoln hangs in the Corridor of the Senate Wing of the National Capitol in Washington. A newspaper article about Thorpe is enclosed.

The prices for the paintings are as follows:

1. All four Falters (sold only as a group) \$80,000.00 for the set with \$40,000 down and \$40,000 by 1/15/86 with no interest.
2. The Thorpe oil of Lincoln \$24,000 with \$12,000 and \$12,000 by 1/15/86.

We would like to see them stay in the Midwest...thanks for your consideration.

James T. Weaver, Pres.
712-382-1212



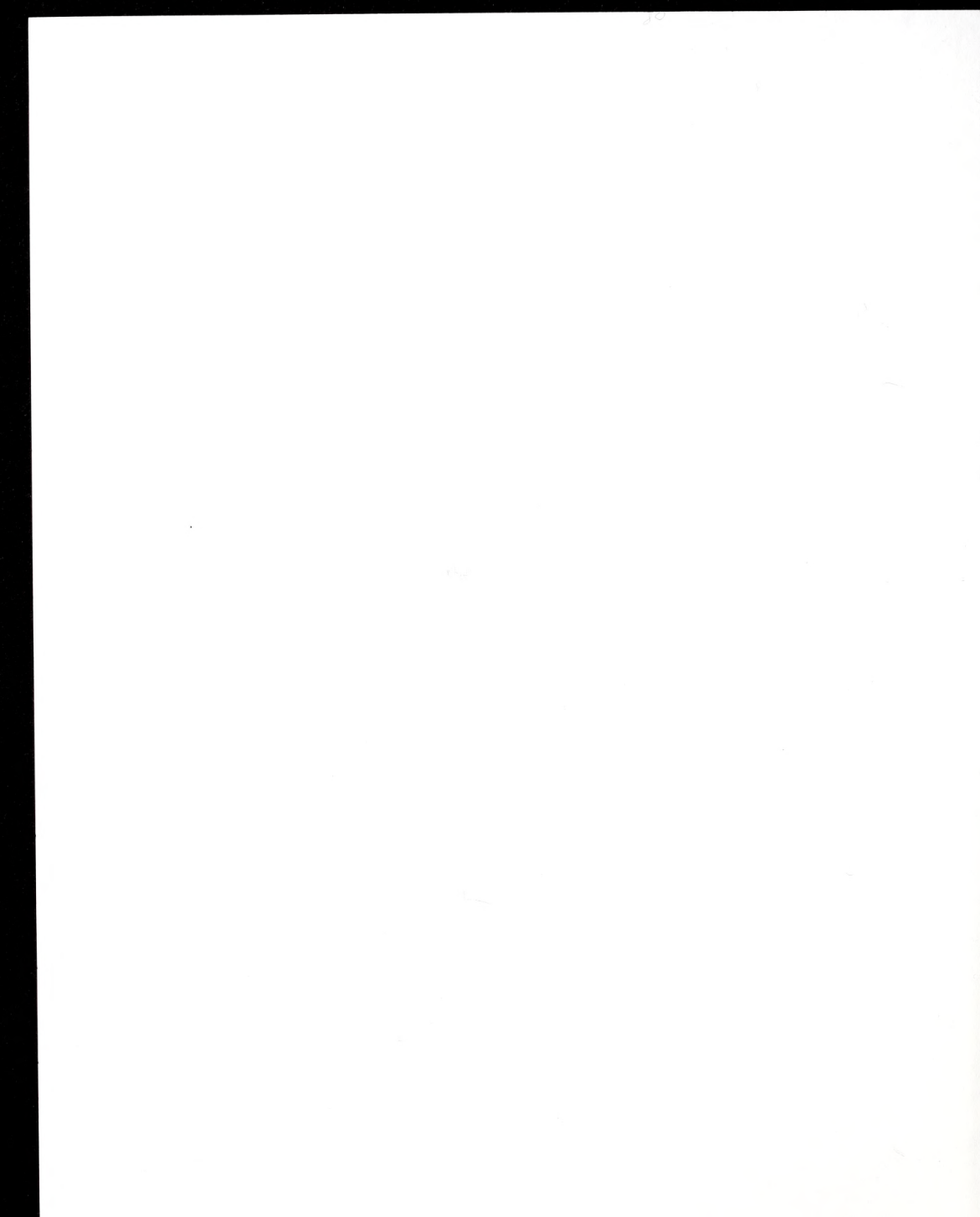
JOHN P. FALTER: A RETROSPECTIVE

Called "America's most gifted illustrator" by Norman Rockwell, John P. Falter is known primarily for his cover illustrations for The Saturday Evening Post. His reputation is based mainly on his work as an illustrator, but also rests on his accomplishments as a painter of portraits and subjects from American history. A native Nebraskan, Falter drew upon his early life in creating much of his art, even though his career led him to live elsewhere.

John P. Falter was born in Plattsmouth, 1910, and died in Philadelphia, 1982. His family moved in 1916 to Falls City, where his father established a clothing store. As a high school student, Falter created a comic strip "Down Thru The Ages," which was published in the Falls City Journal. J. M. "Ding" Darling, Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist of the Des Moines Register, saw some of John's cartoons and urged him to become a professional illustrator.

After graduating from high school in 1928, he studied at the Kansas City Art Institute and won a scholarship to the Art Students League in New York. Soon afterward, he began illustrating "pulp" magazines. He received his first commission from Liberty magazine to do three illustrations a week in 1933. By 1940, he had acquired several advertising clients including Gulf Oil, 4 Roses Whiskey, Arrow Shirts, and Pall Mall.

Falter's first Saturday Evening Post cover, a portrait of the magazine's founder, Benjamin Franklin, is dated September 1, 1943. He did over 185 covers from 1943 to 1969 when the Post ceased publication. In 1943, he enlisted in the Navy and designed over 300 recruiting posters. During this period, he also completed a series depicting twelve famous war heroes for Esquire magazine. Falter also did illustrations for Good Housekeeping, The Home Magazine, The Ladies Home Journal, Cosmopolitan, McCall's, Life and Look.



Falter produced a body of work impressive in volume and variety of subject. Reflecting a lifelong interest in jazz, he did scenes of Harlem nightclub life in the thirties, and, later on, portraits of famous jazz musicians such as Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden, Pee Wee Erwin, and others. An excellent portrait painter, Falter had Clark Gable, James Cagney, Olivia de Havilland, and Admiral Halsey among his sitters.

During the 1970's and 1980's, he turned to historical and western themes. The 3M Company commissioned him to do a series of six paintings in celebration of the American Bicentennial, titled "From Sea to Shining Sea." Falter completed over 300 paintings in the field of western art, with emphasis on the westward migration of 1843 to 1880 from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains. He was honored by his peers with election to the Illustrators Hall of Fame in 1976, and membership in the National Academy of Western Art.

Falter once made the following, insightful observation about his work:

It has been my hope to record what is probably the last of the great tradition of farming, of river life, of the domestic life so closely related to it, and of the small bits of peace and serenity that only exist close to nature.

Mr John

Esquire

1899

Attorney

